Release of I-Leap in Hindi and other Indian languages

*732. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration for release of I-leap in Hindi and other Indian languages free of cost to the public through Government website;

(b) if so, by when it would be released; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider releasing it at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) I-Leap is an Indian language Word processor developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC). It has already been released which can be freely downloaded from the websites. *http.//tdil.mit.gov.in* and *http.// www.cdacindia.com* and used with all features for 30 days. Thereafter on payment of Rs. 1000/- it is reactivated to allow the user to access the complete software with requisite support. I-Leap supports 11 Indian languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Assamese, Oriya, Kannada, Malayalam, Telegu, Tamil and Punjabi, with one popular type face per script.

Allocation of foodgrains for BPL card holders in Gujarat

*733. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PBULIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented for allocation of food grains for BPL card holders based on survey conducted by the State Government;

(b) if so, whether the above request of the State Government is being considered; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The State-wise number of BPL families was initially based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 applied to the population projections of 1995. With effect from 1.12.2000, the base was shifted to the population projection of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. The number of BPL families in the State of Gujarat, thus, works out of 21.20 lakhs as against which the State Government has identified 33.9 lakh BPL families. As such, it has not been possible to accede to the request of the Government of Gujarat.

Provision of foodgrains at concessional rates

†*734. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed a target to provide foodgrains at concessional rates;

(b) if so, the method adopted for proper distribution of the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that needy people fail to get foodgrains due to interference of middlemen and connivance of the officers; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to bring transparency in the system?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is being made at subsidised rates. The State-wise number of BPL families was initially based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 applied to the population projections of 1995. With effect from 1.12.2000 the base was shifted to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. The total number of BPL families in the country is 6.52 crore.

(b) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. Whereas the procurement, allocation and distribution upto the Central godowns is done by the Central Government, the identification of beneficiaries, issue of ration cards and distribution of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.